

FALCON FLYER

September 20, 2015

<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/floral/lmccubrey@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us>

tostrander@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Dear Floral Families,

As the third week of school gets wrapped up, we are excited to visit classrooms and observe learning communities taking shape with established routines, organized tools, and a pervasive sense that “we’re in this together.”

One common thread that you will notice in visiting any classroom is the presence of “anchor charts.” To look at them, they look like any other chart of information or rules you would expect to see posted to the wall in an elementary classroom. What makes a chart an “anchor” chart (as opposed to a decoration in the room) is that the chart contains essential vocabulary, behaviors, and/or concepts that the teacher and students *developed together* during a lesson and now *continuously refer back to* throughout a unit of study. These charts become learning tools for students to use (and add to) all year long- they become the visual fabric of learning in that classroom.

Here are some different anchor charts we’ve noticed appearing on walls during these first few weeks of school:

- Routine Charts: These charts list the expected behaviors for key routines in that classroom, such as Read to Self, Math on the rug, Morning Meeting, Working in groups, etc
- Math Chart: Includes key vocabulary and concepts in the current math unit
- CAFÉ Charts: This Literacy anchor chart builds over time to include the key strategies students learn to strengthen their **C**omprehension, **A**ccuracy, **F**luency, and **E**xpanding Vocabulary.

Ask your child to describe a chart that his/her class uses as a tool in their classroom. You could even develop your own home anchor chart together – such as listing out what it looks like and sounds like to complete homework, clean their room, or get ready for school in the morning. What makes a chart an anchor chart is that it’s used as a tool by the student (and adult) to reinforce the learning- and that it’s anchored to a spot where that learning takes place.

Have a wonderful week!

Lisa & Tiffany

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Falcon Flyers Now Online

This fall we transitioned to a new website! We're excited about the much-needed change and are looking forward to more seamless communications. To ensure you are able to access all weekly Falcon Flyer newsletters, we will be storing all updates on the new website. To find archived flyers follow these steps: Visit <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/floral/> > click communications on the left hand menu> click newsletters on the left hand menu> click the Falcon Flyer edition you're looking for (example, 9_13_15 was sent out last Sunday evening). If you experience any difficulty or need further assistance please call the front office.

From the PTO – Jeanine Fundraiser Orders

This Thursday September 24th will be the last day for all Jeannine orders to be placed. As mentioned before this fundraiser is important to our school as it helps us fund things during the school year that are not funded through the school budget. Please submit your order forms and payments back to your child's teacher. Thank you for your continued support of the Floral Street School PTO.

Floral Fitness Club Update

We are still accepting registrations for the Floral Fitness Club. Students in grades 1-4 may register for this mixed age class taught by Ms. Richard and Ms. Morrissey. The club meets on Wednesdays and starts October 7th. See click on this link for details and to register:

<http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/floral/Activities.cfm>

Registration will close on **September 20th**.

Letter from the Art Room

Our student artists from all grades are already creating stunning work in their art classes. When you come for Curriculum Night next week, be sure to stop by the display case in the main hallway by the music room to view the impressive work of Floral fourth grade artists. Their art reflects the effective effort they put forth!

Please view the welcome letter from art teacher, Mr. Robert Wilson by clicking on this link to our website: <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/floral/newsletters.cfm>

Two Parents Needed to Join School Council

We are still in need of **two parent representatives and one community representative** to join our School Council. This collaborative advisory board works with the principals and staff representatives to develop and monitor implementation of our school improvement plan. School Council holds monthly meetings, in the early morning, late afternoon or early evening (time will be determined through consensus of the Council). If you would like to volunteer your time, please send an email to Lisa at lmccubrey@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us as soon as possible. The first meeting of the year will take place the evening of Monday, October 5th at Shrewsbury High School.

If you know of a Shrewsbury citizen who does not currently have children attending school at Floral and would be interested in serving as a community representative on the School Council this year, please ask them to be in touch with me at the above email or by calling the school at 508-841-8720.

From the PTO – Shopping Reward Cards

Help support Floral by registering your local shopping rewards cards! See the attached flyer to learn more about which businesses donate money to our school thanks to your everyday purchase.

Notes from Previous Falcon Flyers:

Young Rembrandts After School Art Class

Young Rembrandts is excited to be returning to Floral Street School this year for our after school drawing classes. The fall season is one of the most colorful times of the year in Young Rembrandts, and we'll capture all of those colors and more in our fabulous drawings. Our classes are always upbeat and positive – come join the fun! Class will again be on Tuesdays this year and we have all new lessons. The first six week session will run October 6 - November 17th. Tuition is \$72 and is

available online or by returning registration form and payment to the school office. The form can be found on our website by clicking here: <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/floral/newsletters.cfm>

Online registration is also available at www.youngrembrandts.com/swboston-centralma. We have a new online registration system: you will need to set up a family account on our website with your email address. Contact Young Rembrandts directly with any questions: (508)393-8033. We can't wait to get started! This class is sponsored by the Floral Street School PTO and a portion of the tuition goes directly to the PTO to support school programming.

Updating Demographics in PowerSchool

Please be sure that you have updated your demographic information, as well as home & cell phone numbers and email addresses online on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. To log in to your Parent Portal account, go to <https://ps.shrewsbury.k12.ma.us/public/>. You will also be prompted to read the Elementary Student Handbook and acknowledge that you have read and understand the information in the handbook.

Curriculum Nights

At the bottom of this notice are dates for our upcoming Curriculum Nights. These are an important opportunity to strengthen our home-school connection. We hope to see you there, and want to make three important notes now:

- 3rd & 4th Grade Families: Curriculum Nights begin at **6:30 pm in the cafeteria** so that principals can provide a brief but broad overview of the curriculum and school-wide practices, allowing teachers to provide more detail in individual presentations in classrooms immediately following the principals' presentation.
- 1st & 2nd Grade Families: Curriculum Nights begin at **6:30pm. First grade parents will go directly to their child's classroom** for teacher presentations and will meet afterwards with principals for a brief presentation in the cafeteria. **Second grade parents will gather in the cafeteria at 6:30pm** for a presentation from the principals and will then travel to their children's classrooms for teacher presentations.
- This evening is intended for parents. Please make every effort not to bring students or siblings to the Curriculum Nights.

The Elementary Lunch Menu and Directions for purchasing pre-paid lunch tickets can be found at any time at:

<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/foodsvc/elementarylunchmenu.cfm>

Important Upcoming Dates:

*New dates added this week appear in bold print

September 17	School Picture Day
September 29	Grade 4 Curriculum Night (6:30 – 7:45)
September 30	Grade 3 Curriculum Night (6:30 – 7:45)
October 1	Grade 1 & Grade 2 Curriculum Night (6:30 – 7:45)
October 2	Grades 3 & 4 School Meeting
October 9	Professional Development Day for Staff / NO SCHOOL for Students
October 12	Columbus Day / NO SCHOOL
October 16	Grades 1 & 2 School Meeting
October 21	School Picture Re-Take Day

Most Frequently Used Numbers:

Office	(508) 841-8720
Nurses, Phone	(508) 841-8729
Nurses, FAX	(508) 841-1545
Extended Day	(508) 841-8743

The full district school calendar is available on the district homepage at: <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/>